

What is Learning

Definitions of Learning

There is **no single accepted definition of learning**, since it depends on one's point of view or a *learning paradigm*. Most commonly accepted **learning paradigms** suggest learning is:

- a visible change in one's behavior which can be measured¹⁾
- the active process of acquisition (including insight, information processing, memory, perception) of new knowledge and developing adequate mental constructions²⁾
- a natural desire of human beings, a mean of self-actualization and developing personal potentials³⁾
- an active, socially enhanced process of knowledge construction based on one's own subjective interpretation of the objective reality⁴⁾
- the process of connecting to information sources containing actionable knowledge and maintaining those connections⁵⁾

Some **other definitions** of learning we found useful are listed here:

- *"acquiring new or modifying existing knowledge, behaviors, skills, values, or preferences and may involve synthesizing different types of information."*⁶⁾
- *"the activity or process of gaining knowledge or skill by studying, practicing, being taught, or experiencing something: the activity of someone who learns."*⁷⁾
- *"all relatively permanent changes in potential for behavior that result from experience but are not due to fatigue, maturation, drugs, injury, or disease."*⁸⁾
- *"a relatively permanent change in mental associations due to experience."*⁹⁾

¹⁾

See: [Behaviorism](#).

²⁾

See: [Cognitivism](#).

³⁾

See: [Humanism](#).

⁴⁾

See: [Constructivism](#).

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See: [Connectivism](#).

⁶⁾

[Wikipedia: Learning](#). Retrieved September 6th, 2011. Updated August 11th, 2011.

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[Merriam-Webster Learner's Dictionary: Learning](#). Retrieved September 6th, 2011.

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[Lefrancois, G. R. Theories of Human Learning: What the Old Man Said](#). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thompson Learning. 2000.

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[Ormrod, J.E. Human learning \(3rd ed.\)](#). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice-Hall. 1999.

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